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Utah honors veterans in variety of ways

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Taylorsville ROTC students carry the American Flag during the 2015 Veterans Day Parade in Taylorsville on Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015. The event was sponsored by Taylorsville and the United Veterans Council.

Jeffrey D. Allred, Deseret News

Summary

From tributes and musical numbers to parades and pancake breakfasts. Utah honored its veterans Wednesday with activities throughout the state.

TAYLORSVILLE — From tributes and musical numbers to parades and pancake breakfasts, Utah honored its veterans Wednesday with activities throughout the state.

More than 900 students and faculty members lined the route of the Veterans Day Parade on 2700 West in Taylorsville, waving flags and cheering their appreciation for veterans.

Taylorsville Mayor Larry Johnson said he was proud to help honor his city's veterans.

"The willingness of veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude," he said.

A Flags of Honor display, with each flag containing information about a fallen Utah soldier, was set up south of Taylorsville City Hall.

In Lehi, Johnathan Walker and others stood at attention with flags on the 600 East bridge over I-15.

The Salt Lake City Progressive Service Center gave away two refurbished cars to two local veterans.

Parade and school assemblies all day sought to honor veterans, with dinners and galas carrying into the evening.

According to the U.S. Census American Community Survey, there were 143,771 veterans living in Utah in 2013 and 21,369,602 veterans living nationwide.

Statewide, 6.5 percent of Utah's population are



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veterans. The survey reports that Washington County has the greatest concentration of veterans in the state with 10.2 percent of the population.

After or during military service, many veterans earn a college education. Utah is fifth in the nation for veterans with a bachelor's degree or higher and veterans enrolled in college, according to Census data.

The data also indicates that Utah veterans often succeed financially more than their counterparts in other states. Nationally, unemployment for all U.S. veterans dropped this year to 5.3 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In Utah, the unemployment rate for veterans is 4.9 percent.

Utah ranks 16th in the country for median household income for veterans, with \$65,206 for veterans in Utah and \$61,884 for the national median household income. The U.S. Census QuickFacts states that the median household income in 2014 is \$58,821 in Utah and \$53,046 nationally.

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